

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PEREZ CALLS FOR OAS COUNCIL MEETING
ON U.S. TRADE LAW

1. ON JANUARY 4 PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ SENT A TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT GUILLERMO RODRIGUEZ LARA OF ECUADOR EXPRESSING FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE RECENT STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF ECUADOR CONCERNING THE UPCOMING FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES. AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE MESSAGE AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS FOLLOWS:

"THE DECLARATION ISSUED BY YOUR MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS EXPRESSED CRITERIA WHICH MY GOVERNMENT AND VENEZUELA SHARE FULLY. THE NEW DIALOGUE PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO THE DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THAT GOVERNMENT WHICH PROVIDE FOR DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT AGAINST VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR AS MEMBERS OF THE OPEC. ALSO IT THREATENS IN A DIRECT MANNER THE

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CURRENT LATIN AMERICAN POLICY OF DEFENDING OUR RAW MATERIALS

AND BASIC PRODUCTS THROUGH THE CREATION OF COMMON TRADING SYSTEMS
WITH RETENTION OF SUPPLIES IN ORDER TO ASSURE RENUMERATIVE
PRICES.

"THIS DECISION OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, WHICH
CULMINATED WITH THE PROMULGATION OF THE LAW BY THE PRESIDENT
SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD AS AN INTERRUPTION OF THE DIALOGUE INITIATED
AT THE CONFERENCE OF TLATELOLCO, INASMUCH AS IT CONSTITUTES
A CLEAR ACT OF ECONOMIC AGRESSION AND POLITICAL PRESSURE.
MOREOVER, THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER OF AMERICAN
STATES, OF WHICH WE ARE SIGNATORIES, SINCE ON THE CONTRARY,
IT VIOLATES VARIOUS ARTICLES AND, GENERALLY THE PRINCIPLES
WHICH INSPIRED IT.

"CONVINCED AS WE ARE, YOUR GOVERNMENT AND MINE, OF THE
NECESSITY OF STRENGTHENING THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM WHICH
TODAY SUFFEST SUCH A SEVERE BLOW, A MEETING OF FOREIGN
MINISTERS OUTSIDE THE OAS WOULD NOT BE CONVENIENT NOR
DO I CONSIDER THAT IT WOULD SERVE THE ABOVE PURPOSE. ON THE
OTHER HAND, IT WOULD SERVE THE INTEESTS OF THE HEMISPHERE AND
THE FRANTERNITY OF AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO TAKE THIS LEGITIMATE
AND SEROUS CONCERN TO THE SEAT OF THE OAS IN ORDER THAT IT
MIGHT BE DEBATED IN THE COUNCIL FULLY AND FRANKLY.
SHOULD THIS UNJUST SITUATION PERSIST, TOGETHER WITH THE ECONOMIC
THREAT AGAINST OUR LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS, IT WOULD
LEAD TO A SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND
A TOTAL RUPTURE OF THE SYSTEM WHICH, WITH ALL ITS IMPERFECTIONS
AND INEFFICIENCIES, HAS CONTRIBUTED TO MAINTAINING SATISFACTORY
LEVELS OF SOLIDARITY AND PEACE IN THE REGION. THE LATTER ARE NOW
THREATEDNED DESPITE THE CONCILATORY AND FRATERNAL WILL OF OUR
COUNTRIES WHICH SEEK ONLY RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS TO EXERCISE
FULL SOVEREIGNTY OVER OUR NATUAL RESOURCES AND A BALANCED
AND EQUITABLE COMMERCIAL INTERCHANGE.

"I BELIVE MR. PRESIDENT, THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THE
AMERICAN BROTHERHOOD AND TO THE CAUSE OF PROGRESS TO TAKE
THE INITIATIVE IN REQUESTING A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE ORGANIZATION TO INITIATE FRANKLY THIS DEBATE WHICH
REQUIRES THE UNITY OF AMERICA. WITH THIS THOUGH IN MIND,
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I WILL SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO OTHER PRESIDENTS AND CHIEFS
OF STATE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN REPUBLICS, MEMBERS OF
THE OAS."
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